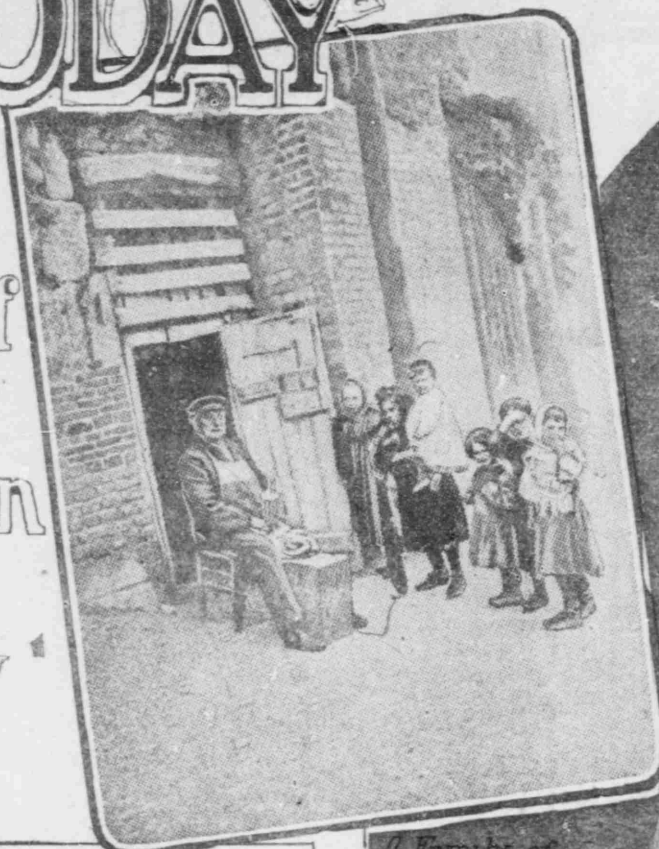


CLIFF and CAVE DWELLERS

of TODAY

Queer Homes of Strange Peoples in the Old and New Worlds.



A Family of Troglodytes



Interior of Cave Dwelling

SCARCELY conceivable, it appears, in these days of skyscrapers and marvelous building operations,

that there are people, who might be termed civilized, contentedly dwelling in caves and in rude dwellings cut in the sides of cliffs.

Perhaps the most interesting colony of Twentieth Century troglodytes, or cave dwellers, is in the volcanic region of Mt. Argæus, Asia Minor.

There a great number of volcanic cone pyramids have been hollowed out by the inhabitants and made into the most wonderful cliff dwellings, storehouses, temples and churches.

In certain sections of China and Manchuria cliff dwellers still have their homes, like the birds, nestling along the faces of rocky canyons; near Tours, one of the most noted cities of France, is a community of peasants dwelling contentedly in caves, while in the southwestern part of the United States some of the Indian tribes have not yet abandoned the ancient practice of burrowing in the sides of cliffs.

Fast ruins of ancient cliff cities have been found in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, presenting a never-ending fascination to the student, and being eagerly sought out by tourists. To prevent their destruction by vandals and relic hunters, the United States Government has taken these ruins under its protection.

BUILDING material is not plentiful in the volcanic regions of Asia Minor, so that the people of that section were glad to take advantage of Nature's kindness in erecting hundreds of cone-shaped pyramids which could be hollowed out and used for dwellings.

The people pursue the ordinary vocations of community life in Arabia; they raise what flocks they can upon the rather scanty pasture of the country roundabout; they have their little gardens at the foot of their queer dwellings, and even attempt manufacturing in a rude way along certain simple lines.

They have their fruit trees; they trade with other tribes and nearby cities, and live a simple, contented life.

That they are to a certain extent religious is shown by the fact that some of the big cones are hollowed out for use as churches and temples.

Either that they have lived in their cliff-cave homes a long time, or have copied styles of architecture of different periods is shown by the construction of these places of worship. One, for instance, has a portico with Doric columns—it belongs to the period of early Greek civilization, or imitates that period.

An interior with pseudo-arches indicates the Greco-Roman period, while another, following the characteristic Byzantine church style, is clearly of Christian origin.

Some of the houses have fronts built with blocks of pumice stone, back of which passageways run to the various rooms.

Frequently these dwellings extend for long distances into the volcanic rock, the entrance

giving one no idea of the extent of the interior.

In this, the people are somewhat canny. It isn't always best, in that country, to permit the extent of one's wealth to be known, so the troglodyte quietly burrows deeper into the rock as he needs more room for his family and the storage of his possessions.

Doorways upon the ground level lead into some of the dwellings, but in many cones the entrance is at a considerable height, being reached by means of two parallel rows of steps.

In some sections, especially at Urgub, the troglodytes have cut their homes in the sides of bluffs instead of hollowing the volcanic cones. These are real cliff dwellings.

Formed in this way is the entire main street of Urgub. In the cone dwellings, windows are generally found around the sides, so that light and air are admitted in nearly all the rooms, but in the case of the cliff houses of Urgub the front room, opening upon the street, is the only one into which the light of day penetrates.

The fronts of the homes are made as unobtrusive as possible; it is said that the unobtrusive traveler might pass through the town without knowing that he was in a community of troglodytes.

A day's journey south of this region is Onion Valley, once a favorite resort of cliff dwellers, but now uninhabited.

Man has forsaken Onion Valley, and the cliff dwellings are now the homes of numerous flocks of pigeons. By some scientists it is thought that these cliffs were inhabited as early as 3500 to 4000 years ago.

A recent traveler in France tells of his surprise upon stumbling into a community of cave dwellers near Tours. High above the road, he said, towered a great mass of overhanging rock, bearing upon its summit what seemed to be the remains of an ancient watch tower.

"Scattered over the face of the cliff doors and windows, narrow stairways and little belvederes could be seen; habitation upon habitation, in most picturesque disorder."

Cone Village of the Troglodytes in Asia Minor.

At the tunnel-like entrance to one of these homes the traveler found a cheery old woman, who extended a hearty greeting and invited him to enter.

Her home consisted of only one room—a square cavern cut in the face of the cliff.

It was not a cheerless abode however; there was a genial glow from the open fireplace; pictures hung upon the walls, a large canopied bed occupied one corner, and an air of tidiness and comfort was about the place.

One would imagine that a cave house would be damp and unsanitary, but the people of this community insist that their homes are dry and healthful. At any rate, a great many old people are to be seen there.

The cave dwellings, declare the owners, are cool in summer and so warm in winter that a fire is frequently unnecessary.

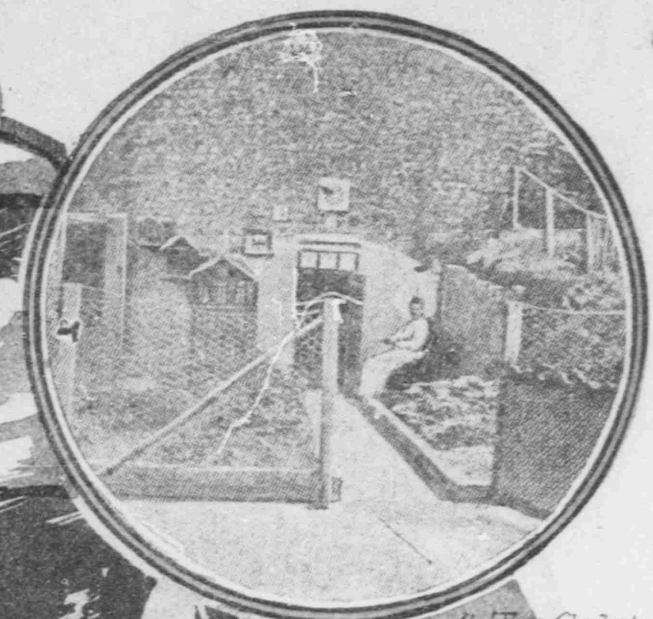
In some parts of the cave village the dwellings are superimposed, one on top of another, each entered by its individual stairway cut in the face of the cliff.

Each dwelling contains four or five rooms. As a general thing the front room is the only one into which the light of day can come. When the house is built in an angle of rocks, however, there are side windows also.

Remarkably cheap are the rents demanded for these cavern homes. A snug little dwelling may be had for \$5 a year, which also pays for a patch of ground nearby for a garden.

For \$8 a year one may have a house of several rooms, with a stable and storehouse in a cave not far away.

Twenty dollars will purchase one of these curious dwellings outright, and for as much more one may purchase a fair-sized garden in



A Troglodyte Garden.



Moki Women Building Cliff House, Arizona.

the vicinity.

Cave stables are also provided for animals, which eat and drink from troughs cut from solid rock.

Various enterprises are conducted in the dark caverns and chambers concealed in these cliffs. Wines, for which the country is noted, ripen and become mellow in the cool cellars; the caves with higher ceilings are used for the drying of hemp and the making of linen.

Some of the caverns are devoted to the cultivation of mushrooms.

Some of the Indian tribes of the southwestern section of the United States still retain the cliff-dwelling characteristics of their forebears. The remarkable homes of the Zunis are objects of great interest to travelers, while in the Moki country the women may be seen frequently engaged in home construction along the face of a cliff.

There are a number of interesting ruins of ancient cliff cities in that part of the country. The noted Cliff Palace, in the Mesa Verde Valley, Southwestern Colorado, was discovered some years ago by some cowboys who had followed their herds into the now famous canyon.

The palace itself consists of a group of buildings in a fair state of preservation. It contains 146 rooms, and in the village are several ceremonial lodges that were used, it is thought, for religious observances.

Some two miles away is the Spruce Tree House, which contained at one time over 125 separate rooms. Entrance to each was through a square hole in the wall, which was probably reached by a pole ladder.

Among other similar ruins in the south west are Casa Blanca, in the Canyon de Chelly of Arizona; Montezuma Castle, in the Rio Verde Valley, and an extensive group in the Chaco Canyon, west of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Just when these cliff homes were constructed is merely a matter of conjecture. It is believed that they were built by the ancestors of the Pueblos, who still occupy curiously built villages in the far Southwest.